

*A Broadband Initiative from the [Iowa Communications Network](#)*



## Counting the ways high-speed broadband helps

Discussing how high-speed broadband helps businesses of all sizes in this day of 1 gigabit per second service. Linc Kroeger, vanguard of Future Ready Iowa at Pillar, said he wants to revitalize rural Iowa through tech. That's why Pillar opened its first Forge in rural Iowa in Jefferson last month.

## Kindergarten Coders: When is Too Early to Put Kids In Front of Screens?

Partovi, a tech entrepreneur and co-founder of the nonprofit Code.org, is leading a national effort to convince schools that more and younger is better when it comes to coding and computer science. Tech giants Microsoft, Facebook and Google are among Code.org's financial backers. The goal is to fill the next generation of computer-related jobs.

## The Worst Cybersecurity Breaches of 2018 So Far

Looking back at the first six months of 2018, there haven't been as many government leaks and global ransomware attacks as there were by this time last year. But corporate security isn't getting better fast enough, critical infrastructure security hangs in the balance, and state-backed hackers from around the world are getting bolder and more sophisticated.

## Rural broadband focus of federal funding in Maine

ConnectME has developed a statewide broadband action plan in partnership with DECD through a collaboration with broadband experts and Maine communities, along with a review of models used in other states, the statement said. The plan sets forth initiatives to meet Maine's broadband needs

within five years of initial funding, and it assumes substantial local, state, federal and private-sector investment.

## **Hughes Promotes Satellite Broadband Backup**

HughesNet Internet Continuity provides automatic switching to satellite broadband when terrestrial internet connections go down, the company said.

## **FDA green-lights 14 digital health products, continues to evolve regulations**

Interest in digital health is now sprouting up all over DC, from the president's announcement of a new AI task force to FDA Commissioner's shout out to digital health in his budget request. This article provides a list of cleared or approved digital health products by the FDA this quarter.

## **Virtual reality headset reduces fear of needles**

A pediatrician has come up with an innovative solution to distract children from their fear, anxiety and pain using a virtual reality headset. He is the first to conduct a pilot study, published in the journal Pain Management, using this technique in a pediatric setting.

## **The cloud as 'a key enabler' in education**

Commentary: Updating a district's computing infrastructure can make room for other technology priorities in the classroom.

## **Three Huge Ways Tech Is Overhauling Healthcare**

We are on the brink of a revolution in healthcare. AI is making the drug discovery process >100X faster and cheaper, and 90 percent more likely to succeed in clinical trials. Mobile health is putting a virtual doctor, on-demand, in your back pocket.

## **Firefox makers working on voice-controlled web browser called Scout**

You could ask the browser, which boasts tremendous accessibility potential, to load a website, and it could read it to you. New artificial intelligence technology is key to letting computing devices understand us -- and communicate back to us with voice.

## Cellebrite's newest target: Your IoT-filled home

Smart home devices are quickly proliferating across the world. Each one of these devices in the ever-expanding internet of things produces huge troves of data. That information is increasingly becoming a focal point for Cellebrite, the wildly profitable Israeli firm most famous for its cracking open encrypted iPhones on behalf of law enforcement and intelligence agencies.

## Infrastructure: Statewide Broadband in Kentucky on Track for 2019-20

The Kentucky Wired plan has been delayed and survived a near-death experience during the 2018 legislative session, but the “middle mile” broadband network plan now intends to roll out within 18 to 24 months with its original intent and focus – putting gigabit-speed internet service nodes into every commonwealth county.

## This is the one thing every smart home needs

The ideal smart home has changed a lot over the last few years, from a few smart bulbs and a thermostat to video doorbells and robotic lawnmowers. With an ever-growing number of connected devices in your home, there is an obvious bottleneck that can occur: Wi-Fi reliability. That's why if you are planning on making your home smart, you should have a mesh Wi-Fi system.

## California lawmakers approve data-privacy bill opposed by Silicon Valley

California Governor Jerry Brown on Thursday signed data privacy legislation aimed at giving consumers more control over how companies collect and manage their personal information, a proposal that Google and other big companies had opposed as too burdensome.



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